GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:159
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2005
FREEDOM FIGHTER PENSION IN WEST BENGAL
Murmu Shri Rupchand

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of freedon fighters in the country who are receiving the Freedom Fighter`s Samman Pension and `Tambra falak` as on date, State-wise/UT;

(b) the details of struggles in West Bengal which are considered part of the freedom struggle and the numbner of participants eligible for pension under Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme;

(c) the number of applications for pension from these participants rejected alongwith the grounds on which such rejections made;

(d) whether the Government proposes to take a liberal view in the matter of producing certificates, documents etc., as most participants already had died and documents are not available due to passage of long time; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT)

(a): Government of India has sanctioned pension to about 1.69 lakh freedom fighters & their dependent, since the inception of the central pension scheme in 1972. Pension to Freedom Fighters is disbursed through Treasuries and Public Sector Banks throughout the Country, and the power to transfer dependent family pension to eligible dependents of deceased freedom fighters has been delegated to the disbursing authorities. This Ministry does not have the exact number of freedom fighters and their eligible dependents presently living and drawing pension.

The Scheme to issue `Tamrapatras` to Freedom Fighters was operated through Central as well as State Governments. The statistics relating to the same are not maintained. The said Scheme has been held in abeyance since 1988.

(b): The names of movements specifically recognized for the purpose of pension under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980, as also those specifically not recognized for pension (i.e., the `Negative list`) are given in the annexure. However, whosoever fulfils the eligibility criteria as prescribed in the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980 (provided the concerned movement is not listed in the `Negative` list) is eligible for pension, irrespective of whether or not the movement is specifically recognized for the purpose of pension under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980. This Ministry does not have the enact number of eligible freedom fighters and their eligible dependents.

(c): Whosoever does not fulfill the eligibility criteria or does not furnish the requisite primary or secondary evidence as per the provisions of the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980, gets his claim rejected.

(d) & (e): The Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980 already has provision for acceptance of secondary evidence (i.e., Personal Knowledge Certificates in the case of underground suffering and Co- Prisoner Certificates in the case of jail suffering, accompanied with a Non- availability of Records Certificate) if primary evidence (i.e., contemporary official records) are not available. There is no proposal to further liberalize the provisions of the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980, under consideration of the Government.
Statement referred to in reply to Part (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 159 for 01.03.2005 regarding Freedom Fighter Pension in West Bengal.

I. LIST OF MOVEMENTS RECOGISED FOR GRANT OF SWATANTRATA SAINIK SAMMAN PENSION SCHEME, 1980.

1. Suez Canal Army Revolt in 1943 during Quit-India Movement & Ambala Cantt. Army Revolt in 1943.

2. Jhansi Regiment Case in Army (1940).

3. Rani Jhansi Regiment and Azad Hind of INA (1943-45).

4. Hollwell Monument Removal Movement conducted by Netaji in 1940 at Calcutta.

5. Royal Indian Navy Mutiny, 1946.
6. Khilafat Movement.

7 Harsha Chhina Mogha Morcha (1946-47).

8. Mopla Rebellion (1921-22).

9. Arya Samaj Movement in the erstwhile Hyderabad State (1938-39).
10. Madurai Conspiracy Case (1945-47).
11. Border Camp Cases in erstwhile Hyderabad State (1947-48).
12. The Ghadar Movement.
13. The Gurudwara Reform Movement (1920-25) including:-

(a) Taran Taran Morcha.
(b) Nankana Tragedy of February (1920).
(c) The Golden Temple Ke Affairs (Morcha Chabian Saheb).
(d) Guru ka Bagh Morcha.
(e) Babar Akali Movement.
(f) Jaito Morch.
(g) Bhai Pheru Morcha; and
(h) The Sikh Conspiracy (Golden Temple) of 1924.

14. Praja Mandal Movement in the erstwhile Princely States (1939-49).
15. Kirti Kisan Movement (1927).
16. Navjavan Sabha (1926-31).
17. Quit India Movement (1942).
18. INA and IIL (1942 to 1946).
19. Merger Movement in the former French and Portuguese possessions in India.
20 Peshawar Kand in which members of the Garhwal Rifles took part.
21 Red Leaf Conspiracy Case (1931).
22 Chauri Chaura Kand (1922).
23 Aranya Satyagraha of Karnataka (1939-40).
24 Goa Liberation Movement.
25 Kalipattanam Agitation (1941-42).
26 Kallara – Pangode case.
27 Kadakkal Riot case.
28 Chengannur Riot case.
29 Vattiyoorkavu Conference.
30 Anti-Independent Travancore.
31 Punnapra-Vayalar Movement.
32 Karlvelloor Movement.
33 Kauvambal Movement.
34 Kayyur Movement.
35 Morazha Movement.
36 Malabar Special Police Strike (MSP Strike).
37 Dadra and Nagar Haveli Movement.

II. LIST OF MOVEMENTS/MUTINIES NOT RECOGNISED FOR SWATANTRATA SAINIK SAMMAN PENSION ('Negative list').

A. MUTINIES

1. 21st Central India Horse Mutiny.

2. M.T. Loading/Unloading case in Egypt.

3. Steel Helmet case at Hong Kong.

4. Madras Artillery Mutiny.

5.# Punjab Regiment Army Revolt, at Jhansi.

6. 3/12 Punjab Regiment case; 7, Ganga Din Film Shooting case.

B. STRUGGLES/PLOTS

1. Malappattan Struggle.

2. Punnapara Vayalar Plot.

3. Changannur Riot of 1938-39.

4. Kallara Pangoda Case.

5. Kadakkal Riot.
6. Vattiyoorkkava Conference.

7 Anti Independence Travancore Movement 1946-47.

C. STRIKE

1. Bihar Police Strike.

2. Cochin Police Strike.

3. Malabar Special Police Strike.

4. Disbandnent of Jodhpur Army personnel.

D. CONSPIRACY

1. Meerut Conspiracy case.

2. Delhi Conspiracy case.

3. Calcutta Conspiracy case.

4. Madras Conspiracy case.

5. Nellai Conspiracy case.

= Recognised for grant of special pension under the Special Pension Scheme for Ex-Army personnel who revolted against the British authorities.